

Fulbright Finds U-2 Put U.S. Prestige at 'New Low'

He Condemns 'Bumbling and Fumbling' of the Administration

By RUSSELL BAKER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 28 —

Senator J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas said today that Administration "bumbling and fumbling" in the U-2 plane incident had helped bring United States prestige and influence in world affairs to a "new low."

In a Senate speech, the Democratic chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee took cau-

Excerpts from the Fulbright speech appear on Page 2.



Associated Press Wirephoto

Senator J. W. Fulbright repeats, for newsmen, his attack on Administration's handling of U-2 incident.

tic exception to President's optimistic judgments on recent international events. In his report to the nation last night, the President said this country "must not fall into the error of blaming ourselves for what the Communists do."

Mr. Fulbright said today that the country could not "begin to regain our position in the world" until "we can disabuse ourselves of the habit of self-delusion, of viewing defeats as victories,

and of advertising blunders as strokes of genius."

In a broadside attack on Administration handling of the

Continued on Page 2, Column 2

U-2 affair, Senator Fulbright charged that grave mistakes of judgment had been compounded by a "self-righteous" attitude when the Government planned a right to conduct espionage flights over Soviet territory.

He criticized the President for failing to provide "direction" of events. And, he concluded, the testimony of Administration leaders corresponded essentially with Adlai E. Stevenson's May 19 statement that this Government had given Premier Khrushchev the "crowbar and sledgehammer" to wreck the Paris summit conference.

"One might even go further and say that we forced Khrushchev to wreck the conference by our own ineptness," he said.

Mr. Fulbright's speech was delivered during presentation to the Senate of the Foreign Relations Committee's report on its findings in the U-2 case. The report, published last Saturday, was supported by four of the committee's six Republican members but was much milder in its conclusions than the views expressed by Senator Fulbright today.

'Error of Judgment' Cited

Ordering the U-2 flight May 1, sixteen days before the scheduled summit conference, was "a serious error of judgment" made with "little or no consideration" for the consequences, Mr. Fulbright said.

The Administration insisted that it hoped to get extraordinary information at that period, but refused to tell the committee even in executive session what this information was.

In its refusal to confide in the committee, Senator Fulbright found ground for the conclusion that the alleged extraordinary importance of this information is the Administration's "cover story" for its own costly mistake.

Even after the flight's failure, however, the time available to repair the diplomatic damage was "improperly used," Mr. Fulbright said. He cited the following points at which he said the Administration should have responded differently:

1. The cover story—an elaborate account of a fictitious weather mission along the Turkish-Soviet frontier—was far too specific and made us look ridiculous when the full extent of Soviet knowledge was revealed. This story was widely published before Mr. Khrushchev disclosed that the plane had been downed not along the Soviet-Turkish border, but near Sverdlovsk, about 1,300 miles inside the Soviet Union.

2. The gravest mistake was made when the President assumed responsibility for the flight.

3. Finally, after the false story had been exposed, the Government erred when the State Department and White House "assumed a self-righteous attitude which complicated our situation in Paris."

The Crux of the Matter

The last two "mistakes" are "the crux of the matter," Senator Fulbright said.

In the traditional system of diplomatic forms a chief of state embodies "the sovereignty and dignity of his country," Mr. Fulbright said.

"It is totally unacceptable for one chief of state because of his personal embodiment to impinge upon the sovereignty of another, and much less so to assert the right to do so," he declared.

STATINT